

# Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter American Guild of Organists  
**NOVEMBER 2021**

**Email:** [northernnjago@yahoo.com](mailto:northernnjago@yahoo.com)    **Web:** [northernnjago.org](http://northernnjago.org)    **YouTube:** [northern nj ago](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)  
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Dear Members,

Two weeks ago I woke up and got out of bed to find the room spinning. With dizziness accompanied by nausea, I held onto walls and furniture as I moved to the next room, confused as to what was happening. Other things are confusing, too. Our Christmas concert is looming before us, and questions are still persistent. Mask? Unmask? Audience restrictions? Congregational carol sing allowed? Food reception allowed? Even though my diagnosed vertigo subsided with physical therapy exercises, I find my head still spinning. Everyone has an opinion as to how to keep a concert both enjoyable and safe—and they all vary.

So where are we now? Well, it has been decided not to allow more than 150 people at the performance, free online tickets must be procured before the event, all audience masking is mandated, vaccination encouraged, no congregational carol sing will be included, and there will be no food reception held after the performance.

And the choir?? Well- the jury is still out. Will the choir be masked while singing? Some want it and some don't. Will the choir need to be Covid tested? Some prefer it and some don't. Rehearsals are ongoing -- all masked. I hope all of you join us at Second Reformed Church in Hackensack on Dec. 5, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. to view the concert which will be taped, but NOT livestreamed. At that time, you will all see how it played out. Hopefully after that day, my "church vertigo" will be a thing of the past.

Sincerely,  
 June Marano-Murray, Dean



**Our October meeting, "Meet the King of Instruments" was a huge success!** The two-hour program had these kids (and their adults, too, listening to and playing the church's pipe organ, building our OrgelKit, and, of course, enjoying pizza. Thanks to all the teachers that brought these students, as well as Cathie Ruppi and Debbie Holden-Holloway, who helped me at Old Paramus to set up the sanctuary and then return it to our normal "Sunday Best" position after the event.

Our **NOVEMBER** Meeting

**MONDAY, Nov 15 – 7:30pm:**

**MEMBERS RECITAL**

**St Gabriel the Archangel Roman Catholic Church**

Featuring **Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Music** - St. Gabriel's Church,  
88 E. Saddle River Rd., Saddle River, NJ. Contact Stacie Yao for getting on the program  
AND arranging practice time: [syy112001@gmail.com](mailto:syy112001@gmail.com).

Among the members playing are Chung Hong, Ellen MacLeay, Janet Montroy, Stacie Yao, and Kristin Dabaghian. It is so important that we support these members by attending this program.

The Kegg organ is simply fantastic, the acoustic equally wonderful, and, of course, your colleagues are excited to gather, even when masked!

### Membership News

**A NOTE FROM ELLEN MAYER:** As of November 21st, I will be the Parish Musician at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hasbrouck Heights. I am very excited about this new change.  
[njmusiclady6555@hotmail.com](mailto:njmusiclady6555@hotmail.com)

**A NOTE FROM SUSAN LaFEVER:** I am now Music Director at Saddle River Evangelical Lutheran Church. I can't make Monday evening meetings because that's when The Ridgewood Singers rehearses.  
[susanlaf@optonline.net](mailto:susanlaf@optonline.net)

**A NEW MEMBER WELCOME TO DAVID DOAN:** 110 Cooper Ave., Woodlynne, NJ  
Email: [nonamer6645@gmail.com](mailto:nonamer6645@gmail.com) Phone: 856-729-6085 (Cell)

**WILLIAM GREVILLE** has returned as a dual member of our chapter, his primary membership being with the Queens chapter. His email as listed in our database has been changed to [williamgreville43@icloud.com](mailto:williamgreville43@icloud.com). William was the former organist at Pompton Valley Presbyterian. He's also played at a number of other churches in our area. His name has been added to the sub list.

### 2021-2022 Chapter Handbook and Roster

**Note the new name**, which more adequately reflects the scope of our chapter roster! This was sent out last week to the membership. Did you catch that the "title" page had the wrong year? I have corrected that error, as well as the spelling of former Dean Cathie Rupp's name. You can get the corrected version by going to our website or click on the link in the email I sent with this newsletter. Snail mail copies have been corrected.

## Positions Available

**Bernardsville United Methodist Church 22 Church Street, Bernardsville, NJ** Provide organ and piano music and direct the choir (4 paid soloists + 3 from the congregation) and handbell choir (8 members). The choirs rehearse on Sunday mornings before the 11:15 service.

Select hymns, anthems, and instrumental music for each service. Maintain the music library in good organization and enter new music in a catalog spreadsheet. Arrange for organ, piano, and handbell maintenance with qualified technicians. Arrange for a qualified substitute organist or pianist when absent for church services. Additional details on request: [bvilleumcmusic@gmail.com](mailto:bvilleumcmusic@gmail.com)

**St. Paul's ICC Church. Nutley, NJ, 10 St. Paul's Place, Nutley 07110** Part time Director of Music, 15 hours/week. 1968 2-manual Austin pipe organ, small choir with Thursday rehearsals. Further information: [info@stpaulsuccnutley.org](mailto:info@stpaulsuccnutley.org)

## CONCERTS & EVENTS

**Sun., Dec. 5, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Second Reformed Church, 436 Union St., Hackensack, NJ.** The concert will consist of choir, soloists, and flutist Reva Youngstein. Soloists include Pam Jones, Leslie Malanga, Michael Malanga, and Andres Cascante. Music by composers G.F.Handel, Gustav Holst, John Purifoy, Mark Patterson, Eric Thiman, Mark Hayes, William Averitt, and Don Besig. Contact June Marano-Murray, choir director/organist or Second Reformed Church for more information.

**Sun., Dec. 5, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. The Ridgewood Singers** will be presenting their holiday concert at **First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood, 722 E. Ridgewood Avenue.** The program is entitled "Our Gift" and is the joyous return to live performance including many of your holiday favorites. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a discount from members or at the door. All audience members will be masked, and the chorus is fully vaccinated and masked when not singing. Susan LaFever, Director; Ryan Bridge, Pianist